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NEWS RELEASE

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Oahe Recreation area seeks volunteers for spring clean-up and tree planting event

Oahe Dam, N.D. – The public is invited to participate in a spring clean-up and tree planting event at the Oahe Reservoir south of Bismarck April 30.

On Earth Day, park rangers at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Oahe Project office purchased 130 new trees to enhance the recreation area's campsites.

The rangers selected native trees such as Buffalo Berry, Schubert Choke Cherry, Northern Hackberry, Burr Oak and American Plum that will make the campsites more attractive to campers, deer, songbirds and pheasants.

Before the event, Natural Resource Specialist Greg Carpenter, will provide a safety and nature talk explaining the significance of the trees to be planted and how the different species will improve the area and help wildlife.

Weather permitting, tree planting is scheduled to start Saturday, April 30 at 8 a.m. Participants are invited to meet at the Hazelton Boat Ramp parking area and tree planting will begin shortly after. The parking lot is located about 25 miles south of Bismarck off highway 1804.

Rangers have already been on site preparing to the upcoming camping season by clearing brush and loose tree branches as well as cutting down any dead trees to improve safety around the camp sites and better accommodate the larger travel campers.

The first 35 volunteers will receive a single-use day pass to visit public lands from participating agencies including the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service. Volunteers may also request free permits to cut firewood for personal use while helping remove dead or downed trees at the Hazelton recreation area.

Volunteers should plan to bring their own personal protective equipment such as work gloves and safety glasses.

Should weather delay the event, a make up day has been scheduled for May 7.

Groups or individuals interested in participating can contact Natural Resource Specialist, John Voeller at 701-255-0015.

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